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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 3653**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takashi OHAMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Application No.: 10/797,149

Examiner: M. MCCULLOUGH

Filed: March 11, 2004

Docket No.: 118736

For: SHEET FEEDER IN IMAGE READING APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 23, 2009 Office Action, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1, 3, 6-15, 18, 19, 23 and 24 are pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 11-15 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,896,256 to Hozumi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,927 to Sako et al. (hereinafter "Sako") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0074711 to Higaki; and claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hozumi in view of Sako.

Independent claims 1 and 18 recite a drive roller and a driven roller that are disposed at an immediately downstream side from a reading point of the image reading part.